

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF MARINE SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

- - - - - x
:
SELENDANG AYU :
:
INTERVIEW OF 4TH ENGINEER :
ANUJ SINGHAL :
:
- - - - - x

An interview in the above entitled matter was held
on Friday, December 17, 2004, commencing at 10:20 a.m.,
before:

BRIAN CURTIS, NTSB
DARRELL HOWELLS, USCG
CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE, IMC

1 discrepancy in those two times?

2 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Actually, when I
3 referenced interview, day after that captain told me that he
4 has (indiscernible) the time 12:15 in the deck log book,
5 stop time. So, he want us to stick to that. So, in the
6 first interview, I spoke 12:15 stop time, but a day prior to
7 the second interview, he told me that he is going to tell
8 truth to the U.S. Coast Guard (indiscernible). So, he want
9 us to tell the actual time for stopping.

10 MR. CURTIS: Thank you. When did he tell you to
11 say 10 o'clock?

12 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: The (indiscernible) --

13 MR. CURTIS: I'm sorry, rephrase that. When did
14 he first tell you to say 12:15?

15 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I think when we were at
16 the hotel, and we had to come for this interview, he
17 gathered each and everybody up first, and tell us that we
18 have to speak the stop is 12:15 because he has mentioned the
19 same time in the log book, deck log book. So, he want us to
20 stick to that time.

21 MR. CURTIS: It was just before our first
22 interview?

23 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, sir.

24 MR. CURTIS: Who was there? Who else did he tell?

25 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I think all the crew,

1 which represent the actual present (indiscernible). Each
2 and everybody (indiscernible).

3 MR. CURTIS: Were you all together?

4 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yeah, we were all
5 together.

6 MR. CURTIS: In your hotel you said?

7 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, sir. MR.

8 CURTIS: Do you know any further detail on why he said that
9 to you, other than what you just explained?

10 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I don't know what was
11 the intention during that why he logged 12:15. I don't have
12 any idea, but he told us that he has done the stop time in
13 his deck log book at 12:15. So, he want us to stick to
14 that. I don't know.

15 MR. CURTIS: I'd just like to go back, because of
16 this, knowing this, I want to go back through the events
17 beginning the morning of December 6th on the ship. Starts
18 08:00 just so we get a -- make sure I understand everything
19 that happened from your perspective, beginning at say, 08:00
20 the morning of the sixth.

21 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: It's -- I went down to
22 the engine room ten to 8:00, and then second engineer headed
23 over to me. Around 10, 15 minutes later, chief engineer
24 also came down into the control room, and I asked second
25 engineer that is there any specific alarms during his watch,

1 and he told me to keep an eye on the turbo charger
2 (indiscernible) and asked me to clean the (indiscernible)
3 seawater strainer.

4 Then I went down for a quick round, and I went
5 near the (indiscernible) also. I cleaned the strainer, and
6 when I came back, I washed my hands, and I drank some water,
7 and when I turn around, I saw water coming out through the
8 number three unit.

9 MR. CURTIS: I'm sorry, what time would that have
10 been about? You saw the water?

11 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Maybe 9:45, or 9:30, I
12 don't remember the exact time, somewhere between 9:30 to
13 10:00. Then, after that I informed to second engineer. By
14 that time, second engineer was down, after having his
15 breakfast, and chief engineer and second engineer went
16 inside the control room.

17 So, I informed the second engineer. He went down.
18 He checked the crack. He came up and discussed something
19 with chief engineer. They called me inside. Then, he told
20 me they are going to stop the engine, and asked me to store
21 freshwater (indiscernible).

22 MR. CURTIS: And then what happened?

23 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: After that -- after
24 stopping the engine, they were discussing then what to do.
25 After that they decided to cut off fuel to -- cut off number

1 three unit, and continue the journey. So that I think they
2 decided further permit after that we will try and change the
3 liner, because weather was too rough at that time.

4 MR. CURTIS: Going back to the first interview,
5 after lunch that day, everything's the same as in the first
6 interview?

7 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes.

8 MR. CURTIS: I don't want to go through the whole
9 event line.

10 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: We did the same thing
11 blocking some of the air pipes. Then, cut off the fuel.
12 Everything was same.

13 MR. CURTIS: So, the only difference was that
14 first two hours?

15 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Two hours. MR.
16 CURTIS: Is there anything else, further down the event line
17 that you've remembered since that last interview that you
18 may want to let us know about, or anything that's come up
19 that maybe you didn't think to tell us before that you'd
20 like to let us know about now?

21 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Only thing is that
22 second engineer told me to change the fuel filter candles.

23 MR. CURTIS: Fuel filter?

24 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Candles. Filters, I
25 change.

1 MR. CURTIS: Fuel filters?

2 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: The time when they were
3 discussing about what to do, what action has to be taken, he
4 asked me is better you go and change the fuel filters than
5 to waste -- than wasting the time standing over there. He
6 told me to change the filters.

7 MR. CURTIS: What time was that about?

8 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I think after engine has
9 been stopped, and they were discussing what they will do.

10 MR. CURTIS: That was the heavy fuel oil filters?

11 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yeah, heavy fuel oil
12 filters.

13 MR. CURTIS: When you changed them, were they
14 dirty?

15 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Not too much dirty,
16 because I had changed them in Seattle also.

17 MR. CURTIS: So, it wasn't a lot of debris and
18 sediment?

19 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: No, no, nothing,
20 (indiscernible) clean.

21 MR. CURTIS: That's all I have right now. I'll
22 pass it along then. Captain Lew?

23 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Captain Lew. Fourth
24 engineer, from the time that you took over, and you went
25 around the engine room, I noted that you were also concerned

1 on the purifier itself?

2 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: (Indiscernible.)

3 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Let's go back. What was the
4 reason being?

5 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Sir, the reason was that
6 some technical man came in Seattle. Technician came on
7 board to attend the purifier, because it was not performing
8 well. It was not working before that.

9 So, the (indiscernible) send some technician to
10 overhaul the purifier, and after he overhauled that one, we
11 were running it continuously, and then on (indiscernible)
12 the trust bearing, bottom bearing broke down. So,
13 (indiscernible) that one. So, I want to check whether it is
14 running smoothly or not.

15 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Was it running smoothly?

16 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, sir.

17 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Could you just give an
18 estimation from the time you take over watch from the second
19 engineer, and the job that you have been doing in the
20 morning plus before your normal watch itself, and the time
21 you wash your hands? What time has elapsed, do you think?

22 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: (Indiscernible) sir, I
23 think 8:15 or 8:15, second engineer gone up. After that I
24 went for (indiscernible) maybe half an hour. Then, I went
25 to the purifier room, maybe for 20 minutes, and then around

1 30 minutes, (indiscernible) drained the strainer, and then I
2 came up and washed my hands.

3 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: When this -- when you
4 overlooking your shoulder, and saw the jacket water cooling,
5 where was the chief engineer and second engineer?

6 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Chief engineer and
7 second engineer were inside the control room, sir, at that
8 time.

9 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Okay, thank you, no more
10 questions.

11 MR. HOWELLS: Anuj, are you familiar with the --

12 MR. CURTIS: Excuse me.

13 MR. HOWELLS: Oh, this is Darrell Howells. Are
14 you familiar with the emergency stand?

15 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, sir.

16 MR. HOWELLS: Can you tell me what you know about
17 that or what it's used for?

18 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: In case we cannot
19 maneuver the engine from control room as well as from the
20 bridge control, then, we can bypass the cover
21 (indiscernible) directly maneuvering from the
22 (indiscernible).

23 MR. HOWELLS: When the engine was trying to be
24 restarted, after the unit was isolated, did anyone try to
25 use it?

1 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, I think so. Second
2 engineer tried from down also.

3 MR. HOWELLS: Second engineer, you said?

4 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Second engineer, yes,
5 sir.

6 MR. HOWELLS: You had the 8:00 to 12:00 watch, and
7 when you asked about alarms, you said there were no alarms?

8 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Because I'm not sure
9 about it, because chief engineer was inside the control
10 room. He's the one who owns the second alarm. I don't
11 remember exactly, but in case, if he feels that any alarm is
12 of major importance, then he needs to call me.

13 MR. HOWELLS: Okay.

14 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: But he never called me
15 on that day.

16 MR. HOWELLS: You said he was resetting an alarm?

17 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: No, if any alarm comes,
18 he use to reset it, if he's inside.

19 MR. HOWELLS: Oh, okay.

20 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: And if he feels that it
21 is of importance, then when he use to call us, otherwise.

22 MR. HOWELLS: Do I understand you correctly, is it
23 that there was a problem with the purifier on the trip from
24 China to Seattle?

25 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, sir.

1 MR. HOWELLS: Were you involved in opening the
2 doors to the scavenging air?

3 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Under piston I opened.

4 MR. HOWELLS: And the piston, okay, what were the
5 condition of those other pistons?

6 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I never checked, because
7 chief engineer and second engineer was standing there. As
8 soon as I was opening the door, they were checking. Both of
9 them were checking the condition of the piston and the
10 (indiscernible).

11 MR. HOWELLS: Did you hear them talk about it?

12 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Only I saw one piston in
13 the number six unit, and they were talking that maybe they
14 were discussing the company of. Send message to the
15 companies. Something like that chief engineer was telling
16 to the second engineer.

17 MR. HOWELLS: About the number five unit?

18 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Number six unit.

19 MR. HOWELLS: But the condition of number five, do
20 you know?

21 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I don't, because I never
22 checked what was the condition inside.

23 MR. HOWELLS: Is it your understanding that the
24 engineers' secured the engine, or is it your understanding
25 that it quit?

1 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I don't understand.

2 MR. HOWELLS: I thought that I heard you say that
3 the engineers had secured the engine, is that what you said?
4 When -- you discovered the leak. You went and you told the
5 second engineer. They discussed it for a minute. Then what
6 happened?

7 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Then, the second
8 engineer told me that they are stopping the engine.

9 MR. HOWELLS: Okay.

10 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: And then you go out and
11 stop the pressure to the (indiscernible).

12 MR. HOWELLS: When you saw the water leak, is
13 there like a walkway or deck plates next to the engine that
14 you were on when you looked at it?

15 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: No, I was in the control
16 room (indiscernible) for a minute, and the second engineer
17 said it on the (indiscernible) phone.

18 MR. HOWELLS: The control booth is above?

19 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Above.

20 MR. HOWELLS: So, you were on the platform above?

21 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Uh-huh.

22 MR. HOWELLS: You looked down, and you saw the
23 leak? Was it squirting across, or was it like leaking down?

24 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: It was in the form of a
25 jet.

1 MR. HOWELLS: Okay, when you say jet, do you mean
2 like a V shape?

3 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, somewhat like a
4 (indiscernible).

5 MR. HOWELLS: What I'm trying to do, Anuj, is to
6 get an idea of how much water was coming out. I know that's
7 hard to quantify.

8 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Because he cannot see it
9 properly from the top, because there is steam also coming
10 out. It was a very hot water I think, so, I cannot make
11 out.

12 MR. HOWELLS: Yeah, okay. The second engineer's
13 the one that told you that they were going to secure the
14 engine?

15 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yeah, he told me that.

16 MR. HOWELLS: Was there much rushing, or was there
17 much urgency to shut the engine down, or was it more, well,
18 okay, let's talk about it, and let's just go ahead and
19 secure it? Was it more --

20 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I didn't take -- it not
21 take much time in taking the position for stopping the
22 engine.

23 MR. HOWELLS: Did the second engineer, or the
24 chief engineer sound very stressed, or in a hurry?

25 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I don't think so.

1 MR. HOWELLS: Okay, that's all I have.

2 MR. CURTIS: I just have a couple questions, Anuj.

3 The by -- the emergency station, you say it bypasses the
4 (indiscernible). Does it also by pass all the other
5 automation, the trips on the engine?

6 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: That I don't know.

7 MR. CURTIS: And you have a jacket water head
8 tank?

9 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, (indiscernible).

10 MR. CURTIS: Do you know, did that go dry? Do you
11 know, or was there still water left in it after you stopped
12 the engine?

13 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yeah, I think so,
14 otherwise, alarm is there, but I don't remember any alarm.

15 MR. CURTIS: That's all I have, Captain Lew?

16 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: No questions.

17 MR. HOWELLS: Darrell Howells again. Can you hear
18 the alarms in the engine room if an alarm goes off?

19 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Maybe can, yes, I
20 (indiscernible).

21 MR. HOWELLS: So, when you discovered the leak,
22 there was not an alarm?

23 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: No, no alarm.

24 MR. HOWELLS: When the captain talked to the crew,
25 in the hotel, about the time issue, was there anything else

1 that he said, say this?

2 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: No, he never spoke like
3 that to us, but he only told us that we'll stick to the time
4 (indiscernible).

5 MR. HOWELLS: Did anyone else ask you to say
6 something that maybe wasn't accurate?

7 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: No.

8 MR. HOWELLS: Okay, that's all I have.

9 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Captain Lew here. When the
10 captain corrected his time, and talked to you, was it just
11 to you, privately, or was it in the presence of the other
12 officers too?

13 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: In the presence of other
14 officers.

15 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Thank you.

16 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Not only to me.

17 MR. CURTIS: Brian Curtis. Along those same
18 lines, did he also -- were the crew members there as well,
19 engine crew, deck crew?

20 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yeah, when he -- before
21 first (indiscernible) everybody was there.

22 MR. CURTIS: So, this -- where -- it was in the
23 hotel, you said?

24 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yeah.

25 MR. CURTIS: So, you're all together in one place?

1 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yeah, we were all
2 together, all the (indiscernible) persons. First group.

3 MR. CURTIS: All --

4 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Second group --

5 MR. CURTIS: Just the people in the second group
6 were there when he told you?

7 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Then, maybe when second
8 group came, he told them also. From the (indiscernible).

9 MR. CURTIS: You were in the second group?

10 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: I was in the second
11 group.

12 MR. CURTIS: So, he told your group. When you
13 were there, he told your group?

14 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, sir. MR.
15 CURTIS: Let's just pause for a moment.

16 (Discussion off the record.)

17 MR. CURTIS: We're back on. We just took a brief
18 recess there to discuss a couple issues, and back to the
19 questioning, Anuj. So, the group that the captain spoke to
20 when you were there would've been the first group of nine
21 that arrived at the hotel?

22 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Yes, sir, first group
23 that went to the hotel.

24 MR. CURTIS: And as far as leaving the vessel, you
25 were actually in the second group --

1 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Second group.

2 MR. CURTIS: -- that got picked up?

3 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: Second group, which
4 boarded the helicopter.

5 MR. CURTIS: Okay, thank you. Captain Lew?

6 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Captain Lew here. I would
7 like to readdress you the same question again. When the
8 captain spoke to you again on the correct time that is to be
9 stated, was it addressed to you alone, only, or in the
10 presence of the other officers?

11 FOURTH ENGINEER SINGHAL: In the presence of other
12 officers.

13 CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE: Thank you.

14 MR. CURTIS: I think that's all the questions we
15 have, Anuj, and I appreciate your time today. It's now
16 10:43 a.m. and this concludes this interview. Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, at 10:43 a.m., the interview was
18 concluded.)

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings of the National Transportation Safety Board Interview regarding the grounding of the Selendang Ayu on December 9, 2004.

INTERVIEW OF FOURTH ENGINEER:

ANUJ SINGHAL

Eve Jemison, Transcriber